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THE CITY OF SARASOTA

PROCLAMATION

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WHEREAS, Marie Selby Botanical Gardens in Sarasota, Florida, is hosting the Second International Orchid Conservation Congress from May 16–21, 2004; and

WHEREAS, the Congress is an important gathering of distinguished world orchid conservationists from 24 nations to review progress on the goals set at the last International Orchid Conservation Congress:

*That, by 2010, 90% of threatened orchids will be in ex-situ collections, 50% of threatened orchid taxa will be in recovery program in-situ, no orchid taxa will be threatened by unsustainable harvesting, and every child will be aware of plant diversity.*

WHEREAS, the State of Florida has as many native orchid species growing in the wild as do all other states combined, and Marie Selby Botanical Gardens is perhaps best known for its living collection of more than 6000 orchids; and

WHEREAS, orchids are the third largest flower crop internationally in dollar value with primary producers located in Holland, Thailand, Taiwan, and the United States, and orchid production in Florida ranks second only to California; and

WHEREAS, Orchid Conservation Week recognizes the global efforts of orchid conservationists and spreads the message regarding the need to conserve wild orchid species to the youth of Sarasota.

NOW, THEREFORE, the City Commission of the City of Sarasota, Florida, and on behalf of the citizens of our community, takes great pride in recognizing May 16–21, 2004 as

“ORCHID CONSERVATION WEEK”

a week of special importance and worthy of the recognition of the citizens of the City of Sarasota.

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*Richard F. Martin, Mayor*

*Mary Anne Servian, Vice Mayor*

*Fredd “Glossie” Atkins, Commissioner*

*Danny Bilyeu, Commissioner*

*Lou Ann R. Palmer, Commissioner*

ATTEST: *Billy E. Robinson, City Auditor and Clerk*

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